



# **Living with cancer**

Bob Graham



# A brief medical timeline

- 41-year-old male, no previous health issues
- 1988-1995 – flushing, diarrhea, lack of energy
- Nov. '95 – congestive heart failure, heart murmur, tricuspid valve regurgitation; 400+ 5HIAA
- Diagnosis: carcinoid syndrome, up to 20 tumors in and around liver/mesentery
- Feb. '96 – porcine replacement of tricuspid (to allow chemo); pulmonary valve opened up

# A brief medical timeline

March '97 – valve issues return; told not to return to work, life expectancy of one year

June '97 – tricuspid/pulmonary valves replaced with mechanical ones

June-Aug. '98 – hepatic chemo embolization

March '03 – removal of about 15 tumors in and around liver; radio frequency ablation

May '07 – tumors remain stable; heart strong; able to do whatever I want

# Lessons in living

- Trivia game answers

*7 yrs. of being told hypoglycemic, “effects of stress”*

- One case = trend; two cases = protocol

*Samples of as few as five participants make conclusions “iffy”*

- Lab rats and death sentences

*Early on, one doctor wanted me for a study and another doctor guaranteed I’d never work again*

# Lessons in living

- Bank breakers

*Sandostatin LAR (octreotide) costs \$3,900 a month*

- Internet medicine

*Online support groups offer counsel and advice, acting like experts when often they are not*

# Lessons in living

- **Headline hopes**

*Articles about breakthroughs for other cancers reviewed for possible clues for my cure*

- **Doctor Bob**

*I control my care; doctors are only advisors*

- **Someday...**